

Native Village of Nightmute
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Denali Commission Solid Waste Management Project

Activity Report for the month of May to August, 2008

In latter part of April when IGAP received the award notice from Denali Commission the planning for the Demonstration Supersack Balefill Project started. When we noticed a statement attached with the award, Denali Commission appointing Rural Alaska Community Action Plan, Inc. (RuAL CAP) to be our Technical Partner, we tried to convince Denali's Program Manager Gene Kane that we would prefer Zender Environmental Health and Research Group to work with us since we had a long standing working relationship with them, who was our technical partner on our first project Titled "Demonstration Tundra Bag Technology Project".

But, since Gene would not back down from the appointment order, we requested a Grant Award Agreement detailing the roles, responsibilities, and relationship between RuAL CAP and the recipient (Native Village of Nightmute) of the Denali Commission grant award for the Solid Waste Management Projects under award number 380-08. When IGAP Department received the grant award agreement in the early part of May the program that was designated responsible of the project, John George IGAP Coordinator present it to Nightmute Traditional Council at their duly called meeting for discussion and approval, the tribal council had no objection, but stated working with different agencies may lead us to have more resource to work with because we never know the businesses or firm maybe out of service for some reason, and the vote was unanimous to approve the grant agreement.

Once RuAL CAP signed the agreement and Nightmute Traditional Council EPA-IGAP received signed agreement, John and David Tulik IGAP Assistance Technican called Lisa Michael our project contact to order 1,725 supersacks, but Lisa told John & David their was only 600 hundred super sack available and we could use them to start with. The supersacks were ordered from Bag connection at Portland Oregon as early as possible so they could put on the first barge to be arrived at Nightmute, Safety gears were also requested to be ordered from Alaska Safety at Anchorage.

Temporary Job description was developed and posted, we received 12 applicants but our proposal was to hire 7 clean up crew, so we put the 5 applicant on standby just incase some might want to quit, go to summer subsistence or commercial fish, or get sick, and would not show up on time when the project starts, we set up the hiring process as first come basis.

We also called the once that worked last year to see if they would be interested working again at this project only 5 were interested, since they had the experience we wanted to hire them first, so we could use these to direct the new recruit on how to gather solid waste, separate out hazardous, transfer waste to large super sacks, gather and stack scrap metal, gather and contain and transport recyclable cans to storage, gather and separate bulky items, operate burn barrel, etc.

John also developed a boat rental agreement and presented to NTC for approval, Nightmute Traditional Council also develop a bank deposit only agreement with Lisa Michael for the protection of the confidential information in IGAP account, once Lisa signed the deposit only agreement, she was provided with bank information. Also developed reimbursement request form for use when IGAP request funding from RurAL CAP so this way what were requested would be itemized and the amount identified for each category.

Three days before the started of the project we notified the 5 experienced clean-up crew who were interested and 2 new hires, that the project would begin on June 2 at 9:00 am. On June 2 all who showed were given a safety briefing, we stated to the recruit since this project will be temporary their would not be holiday pays or time offs and the work would be demanding, exhausting, hard, tiring, smelly, disgusting, hot, and insect infested and will dismiss those who are late three working days, lack of work, or repeatedly fail to call in before the work began, and if they feel getting sick or get sick they would need to tell IGAP staff that they need to get check up at the clinic and get sick slip from heath aid in order to avoid any termination or dismissal since the project time line is short to meet. Also address to the recruit what they should be handling and what not to handle. Issued safety Gear such as; Raingears (coat, bib pants), protective gloves, safety goggles, protective masks, glove liners, rubber boots with protective steel soles, the hired crew tried out the safety gear so they won't be tightly fit.

Rented a boat from Andrew George and Johns boat was a back up just in case Andrew may want to use his for subsistence. The boats were rented for the whole project, to go across the river, and transport supersacks to the worksite, collected items to bring from the dump area and what ever the crew may need. Brought the ATV Honda and the trailer across to the project area to haul supersacks to the berm locations and to top off the half full supersacks. Purchased gasoline fuel in the amount of 15 gallon and 1 case of motor oil from City of Nightmute, purchased consessional items to keep clean up crew energize since the workload is exhausting.

At 1 o'clock p.m. the clean-up crews were brought to the worksite to start cleaning-up. The clean up crew start off with 70 sacks that City of Nightmute donated, while awaiting for the 600 super sacks we ordered from bag connection to arrive. At the first day, the clean-up crew had filled up 11 supersacks and has separated several florescent lights from the pile of trash. Collected electronic wastes, the total estimated pound were in the range of 200 to 300 pounds, for entire project we estimated the crew had collected about 2,500 lbs of electronic wastes. The Supersacks that crew filled up were hauled and placed alongside the once that were put up last year in order to widen the berm creation and prevent from falling to one side or tilt.

At the first week clean-up crew did a tremendous job when they got the hang of filling the sacks and they were averaging 19 to 20 bags daily, by do this they had convinced the IGAP Staff that they are reliable hard working, dependable, and self starter groups.

At the second week of June, the clean-up crew continues their daily routine. The barge arrived in mid part of June that brought the supersacks and the connex that we ordered last year using the 2007 Denali grant fund. When they got done at the west end of the dumpsite near the burn barrel, they had moved to the riverbank near and on the boardwalk and worked they're way inland. The crew took turns collecting recycling cans that were brought up to the connex (vans) 2 to 4 times weekly totaling up to 1,557 pounds in just a matter of two weeks averaging 5 to 8 green bags a day that ALPAR donated. The total recyclable cans collection for the entire project totaled nearly 3,000lbs. Electronic wastes are still collected as of this time. PCB and non-PCB Ballasts were also collected, but before we ran into any PCB blasts, luckily Lisa Michael informed us to handle these item with extreme caution and Fluorescents light and light bulbs that were collected are stored to the new connex (van). For the entire project the crew had filled up two 5 gallon containers with non-PCB ballasts and about 5 gallon of PCB ballasts.

Joe Buttler of Alaska Building Science Net Work had trained the clean up crew and IGAP Staff how to identify PCB and Non-PCB ballasts, and provided Nightmute with a 30 gallon steel container to put the PCB ballast, also provided Control Sheet, Waste Manifest, Drum Labeling Instruction and Miscellaneous Information that they ordered from Palmer Alaska.

For the third week the workers have continued their routine tasks, collecting recycling cans and electronic wastes, burning, etc., when exhaustion set in the clean up crew started filling 5 to 7 sack daily on average. As of July 18, 2008 the clean up crew had filled up 206 supersacks and were transported to the berm location and still more are being contained.

Since the safety gear we first bought were easily torn up due to heavy lifting, climbing into sacks to pack the contents, pushing trailer (sled the crew found at the dump) filled up with trash to top the nearly filled up super sacks, we end up ordering several heavy duty safety gear, which were way better than the once the crew had been using, but still tear.

When the ATV crankcase and the shift part broke down the transporting of supersacks to the berm creation stalled for several weeks. In August when the part finally arrived, we had talk with CVRF community liaison Jennifer Anthony to schedule several days to work on the ATV, the work lasted for 2 ½ days. Once the ATV was repaired I had David Tulik break it in, just incase it might ruin again if the crew use without running a test, we had to do this since the crankcase is the vital part of the motor. After bring the ATV to the work site transporting of super sacks began, once we had completed placing super sacks all around the original berm creation we create a new berm at the salvage, and bulky item areas. The home shortage was filled up with recyclable cans we started filling up the new connex and the old connex with e-waste.

At the later part of August CVRF barge called over the VHF radio stating that the crane had broke down and would not be able to left the heavy totes, but John recommended that they should use a heavy equipment with fork lift to move the totes, the following day John called Larson Hunter and told him about the problem and his suggestion, several days later the barge named Leo called and wanting me and David to meet them at the landing and loading area, 24 volt lead acid batteries were contain in black heavy duty plastic totes and had filled up 4 of them, 12 volt in white plastic totes, filled up 6 totes,

that were donated from power plant and the rest in home maid plywood line with heavy duty plastics, the total lead acid batteries collected is 8,324 lbs. We also request shipping boxes from Rural CAP for florescent which we filled up 5 boxes. We had also requested Rural CAP to find what companies make sign, A.J Sal our new contact with Rural Cap searched and found one at Fairbanks and ordered 4 sign that we will put up at the community and dump site to provide the community with critical information and direction, which end at Chevak. We are still preparing to ship PCB and non-PCB blast, florescent, bulb light, to Total Reclaim and Alaska Building Science Network and recyclables cans to Bethel through ATS.